

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GRISELDA ALDRETE CITY OF MILWAUKEE

CITY OF MILWAUKEE FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JUNE 3, 2020

CITY LEADERS ANSWER THE CALL OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALDRETE AND AGREE TO DISCUSS HOW TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN MORE MEANINGFUL WAYS, LISTEN TO CONCERNS, AND HOW TO INSTITUTE REAL REFORMS

Milwaukee, WI (June 3, 2020) – The Executive Director of the Fire & Police Commission (FPC), who provides operational leadership, guidance, and coordination as the chief administrator for the Board of Commissioners, requested a meeting with Mayor Barrett, Council President Johnson, Police Chief Alfonso Morales, and at least two (2) Fire & Police Commissioners next Friday, June 12th, in order to address and listen to the community's concerns.

Executive Director Aldrete states, "We must begin to do more than hear the outcry from the community, we have to actually listen. We have to be willing to put politics and press releases aside and engage the community in meaningful dialogue, working to de-escalate the situation, and most importantly, have greater accountability and reforms".

So far, Mayor Barrett and Council President Johnson have agreed to meet with Director Aldrete; however, Police Chief Morales has yet to confirm. In addition, at least two (2) Fire & Police Commissioners will also be present, but it is undecided as of yet who will be available.

While this meeting will be virtual and not open to the public, Executive Director Aldrete stated, "I am extremely pleased that Mayor Barrett and Council President Johnson have agreed to meet and work with my office and the Board of Commissioners to create real, tangible solutions and policing reforms. And while this meeting is not open to the public, I am pledging to hear the community and use the full authority of my office to recommend additional reforms to the Board and investigate each complaint fully and fairly. It is also vital that the Fire & Police Commission continue this investigation of Officer Mattioli and remain independent; we must ensure due process is preserved."

Director Aldrete already has one (1) community event scheduled for June 23rd – and is planning to add two (2) more between June and July – making this a three (3) part series named "Bridging the Divide". Each event will focus on different issues, and reforms the community believes should be made.

Additionally, Director Aldrete wishes to thank the Council members for their joint statement today, encouraging the community to let their voices be heard regarding the six-month review of Chief Alfonso Morales. Every employee from the Police Department, sworn officers, and civilian staff, were each sent a confidential e-survey to evaluate the Chief's leadership and the overall functions of the department. A group of community organizations were also invited to provide feedback, as well. The official review will occur on July 16th before the Fire & Police Commission. Specific details are forthcoming.

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MEDIA CONTACT: FPC Press Office FPCPress@milwaukee.gov

Please note that the general FPC office number will not be responding to media inquiries regarding this release as department staff are working remotely due to COVID-19

